

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed sole source action is for a firm-fixed price modification to Contract Number VA118-13-C-0068 with Accessibility Services, Inc. (ASI), 6360 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, Florida 34446 to expand the scope of the current contract to provide eight additional Environmental Control Units (ECUs), installation, configuration, testing and acceptance, eight additional televisions with acceptance reports for eight beds and eight additional dual mounts for eight beds in support of the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) ECU Implementation at Edward Hines Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Hines, Illinois.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed modification shall provide an additional eight ECUs, installation, configuration, testing and acceptance, an additional eight televisions with acceptance reports for eight beds and an additional eight dual mounts for eight beds in support of the SCI ECU Implementation at Edward Hines Jr. VAMC in Hines, Illinois for SCI patients functioning with limited mobility. The current contract provides for the same ECU technology at 22 VAMCs and Healthcare System facilities. This effort will provide the appropriate number of ECUs, televisions and wall mounts to this facility as the current contract for ECU deployment did not adequately account for the number of beds at Edward Hines Jr. VAMC.

The AutonoME ECU is designed to help the most severely disabled Veterans by interfacing with items used in a hospital room setting such as the television, bed settings (up/down), lights, phone, and nurse call. The key to controlling these items is making alternative input methods accessible to these severely disabled Veterans. The AutonoME ECU technology provides a wide variety of alternative input methods to accommodate Veterans with all types of disabilities. These methods include voice recognition, touchscreen, sip n' puff, eye gaze, and head tracker technologies. Additionally, the AutonoME ECU allow Veterans to access the internet to connect with family and friends via e-mail, social media, and Skype, as well as utilize YouTube to view videos. The AutonoME ECU also provides access to an eBook reader, music player, computer games suite, and productivity tools suite that includes a word processor, calendar, clock, and calculator. Each AutonoME ECU must be installed in the hospital room via an articulating arm, configured for optimal performance, and tested to ensure all components and features are working properly. Comprehensive training is provided to local clinician and technician staff to ensure they are fully aware of all the features available to Veterans via the AutonoME ECU and can provide local assistance and/or support in the event it is needed.

Spinal Cord Injury Environmental Control Unit Implementation

4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is Section 41 U.S.C. 3304(a)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1 entitled, "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The need for additional ECUs, televisions, dual mounts and associated services are considered a logical follow-on to the initial contract for SCI ECU Implementation as this additional equipment is required to execute the requirements of the existing contract. It is of the utmost importance that Veterans receive the latest ECU technology as delivered under the current contract and proposed modification. ECU technology must be, and remain, standardized across the VA enterprise to ensure continuity of care among Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) SCI Centers. Lastly, as outlined in the market research section of this document, Accessibility Services, Inc. is the only vendor capable of meeting the Government's requirements.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR 5.201, the proposed action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and this justification will be made publicly available within 14 days after contract award in accordance with FAR 6.305(a).

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: Market research was performed in June 2014 by the Government's technical experts to determine the availability of other sources that would be capable of satisfying the aforementioned requirements. On June 17, 2014, the Contract Specialist issued a Request for Information (RFI) (VA118-14-I-0418) on the FBO website. The RFI requested all interested vendors to submit a capability statement in response to the posted draft Performance Work Statement. The RFI closed on June 24, 2014 with one response received. One Women-Owned Small Business, Accessibility Services, Inc., indicated they were interested in this procurement by submitting a capability statement. VA technical personnel reviewed Accessibility Services, Inc.'s response and determined that they were capable of meeting the Government's requirement. In addition, Accessibility Services, Inc. is currently providing the ECU's under this contract. In light of the above, the solicitation will be issued on a sole source basis as Accessibility Services, Inc. is the only vendor capable of meeting the Government's requirements.

9. Other Facts: None.